Reservation for disabled in jobs

†173. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's attitude has been indifferent towards strict implementation of one per cent reservation fixed for the disabled in Government jobs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that blinds' organizations in the country are agitating in this regard;

(c) If so, the action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The Government has been taking necessary steps to strictly enforce reservation for persons with disabilities in Government jobs. Some organizations of the Blind have been agitating that benefit of 1 percent reservation in Government jobs to persons with visual disability is not available to them. Information regarding vacancies for persons with visual disabilities is being collected.

Fellowships to SC/ST/OBC students for higher education

174. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes to provide fellowships to students belonging to SC/ST and OBC categories for higher studies under various Ministries/ Departments;

(b) the percentage of applicants granted fellowships during the last three years in each category of fellowship;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase the number of fellowhsips; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class category of candidates have been getting fellowships on the basis of National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted jointly by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and University Grants Commission (UGC) for award of Junior Research Fellowships (JRF). SC/ST candidates get a special consideration in qualifying marks in the test for award of Fellowships. The total number of candidates who got the fellowships, separately for each category during the last three years is as follows:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
SCs	381	368	352
STs	117	93	67
OBCs*	369	399	307

(*does not include fellowships awarded by UGC as they do not maintain data for OBC candidates)

National Overseas Scholarship for SC/ST etc. candidates is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In total 30 awards are offered in a year to SC/ST etc. candidates for pursuing higher studies abroad. The awards under the scheme are in specified fields of science, engineering and technology. During the last three years, 20 SC candidates have been awarded scholarship under the scheme.

(c) and (d) With a view to increase the Fellowships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, two new schemes namely Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been introduced from the year 2005-06 to provide 1333 and 667 fellowships to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. Also 100 Research Associateships for SC/ST were introduced recently.

Bill to safeguard interests of old parents

175. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that her Ministry is going to bring a Bill before the Parliament to prevent children from casting away their parents;